

scholar, and advocate for the environment on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Phyllis Faber's lifetime work to protect agricultural land has not only preserved the beauty of Marin County, but provided an inspiration to other communities to do the same.

More than 35 years ago, in the late 1970s, development plans threatened the beautiful countryside and historic agricultural nature of West Marin. Two women, Phyllis and dairy farmer Ellen Straus, were particularly concerned about preserving the county's farming. While out walking one day, they explored the question of how to protect the land so farmers and ranchers could afford to maintain their operations. The two women reasoned that if development potential were eliminated, the land could more easily retain its agricultural designation. In 1980, Phyllis and Ellen, with support from local officials and the Trust for Public Land, founded the Marin Agricultural Land Trust, MALT, the first land trust in the United States to focus solely on the preservation of farmland.

Since then, MALT has protected nearly 40,000 acres of land on 59 family farms and ranches. It has also served as a model for communities across the country, illustrating how to permanently protect agricultural land through the purchase of agricultural conservation easements.

Over the past 27 years, MALT's conservation easement program has protected about one-third of the agricultural farmland in West Marin, but Phyllis's wish is that in her lifetime MALT will have protected at least one-half of the available agricultural farmland and working farms—and not only protect them from development but ensure their continued operations.

"We are blessed that ranchers and farmers in this area want to stay in agriculture," she says. "Without their commitment to farming, our landscape in West Marin would be quite different."

Phyllis's passion for preserving farm and ranch land is matched by her passion for wildflowers. A teacher, editor, and writer as well as an environmentalist, Phyllis has edited *Fremontia*, the Journal of the California Native Plant Society, and has written eight books about wildflowers.

These have not been Phyllis's only accomplishments, however. She also helped found Marin Discoveries and the Environmental Forum of Marin. For the past 3 years, she has chaired the board of the Buck Institute for Age Research, and of course she continues to serve on the board of MALT.

But for those who live in West Marin, those who visit there, and those who enjoy the delicious products that come from there, Phyllis will always be remembered for her commitment to the preservation of agriculture—not just for this generation, but for those to come.

Madam Speaker, Phyllis Faber's advocacy for the agricultural nature of Marin County has left an enduring legacy on the history as well as the landscape of the county and of communities throughout the Nation. Because of this and because of her continued commitment to agriculture and the environment, I am proud to honor her on her 80th birthday.

HONORING THE HUNT'S POINT MULTI SERVICE CENTER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hunts Point Multi Service Center as it celebrates its 40th anniversary of extraordinary work improving the quality of life in our South Bronx community.

The Hunts Point Multi Service Center, HPMSC, was founded in 1967 by local leaders and South Bronx community members to address the scarcity of quality healthcare facilities in the area. With an initial \$50,000 grant, a free health clinic was established to service the Hunts Point and Mott Haven sections of the South Bronx. This clinic quickly expanded its operations when the war on poverty was declared by the Johnson administration, and became what is today known as HPSMC.

For the past four decades, HPMSC has provided services in direct response to the changing needs of the residents of the South Bronx community. This organization has also remained faithful to its commendable mission: the empowerment of the individual and the community. Its many programs are reflective of the organization's commitment to holistic community-oriented human services. Although HPMSC's primary focus has been on providing health and social services, this organization has also become a prominent advocate on behalf of constituents from my district, playing an important role in the development and revitalization of the South Bronx.

During its long years of service, this organization has been acclaimed by the Federal Government and the South Bronx community. Today, HPMSC has expanded its services to the Soundview section of the Bronx and provides services addressing HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, and the Women, Infants and Children, WIC, Federal program.

Madam Speaker, the Hunts Point Multi Service Center is an effective and storied institution in my community, which has produced many great leaders for our borough and city. Its commitment and dedication to social justice in the South Bronx is commendable. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Hunts Point Multi Service Center on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

HONORING RETIRING LACKA- WANNA CITY COUNCIL PRESI- DENT RONALD SPADONE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of a dedicated public official representing the great city of Lackawanna, NY. I rise to honor the service of retiring Council President Ron Spadone.

Ron Spadone is among Lackawanna's proudest citizens, and is among her best-known and best-liked. A former Ward 4 coun-

cilman, Ron ran citywide for the post of council president 4 years ago and was supported broadly throughout the city.

Ron's commitment to Lackawanna has been inspiring, but closest to Ron's heart is his family. Although Ron recently lost his son Ron—my friend and a longtime employee at the Erie County Board of Elections—Ron's retirement from active public service will afford him more free time to enjoy his family and his own recreational pursuits.

Madam Speaker, thank you for affording me this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Ron Spadone to his hometown, the great city of Lackawanna, NY. I know you and all of our colleagues join me in extending a heartfelt thanks to Ron for his service, and Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NORTH EDGEcombe HIGH SCHOOL—ONE OF THE BEST SCHOOLS IN AMERICA

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special high school in my congressional district: North Edgecombe High School. This school, which is located in Tarboro, NC, was ranked among the top high schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

This year, only 34 high schools in North Carolina were recognized with this great honor and I am so proud that the Mighty Warriors of North Edgecombe High School achieved this great feat. The dedication of the administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, and students to ensure the success of the young generation is to be commended.

Madam Speaker, North Edgecombe High School is seated in a rural area of my district. It educates over 350 students in grades 9–12. Its population is 90 percent minority and 70 percent are labeled as "disadvantaged students." As we from rural districts know, funding for public schools can be concentrated on the metropolitan areas of the state while the rural areas are seemingly forgotten. With limited resources they continue to prepare all students both academically and socially to successfully meet the challenges of an ever-changing society.

The largely affluent Research Triangle Park area which includes Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill had no schools that made the list. This is a true testament to the hard work, dedication and determination of our teachers and students at North Edgecombe High School.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the accomplishment of North Edgecombe High School. It is my most sincere hope that the teachers, students, and parents continue to work hard to ensure that they make the list again in the coming year. I hope other schools in my district will look to North Edgecombe High School as an example of excellence and a model to emulate.